

# MAGIC OF MODERN METHODS TURNS BARREN WASTES OF THE WEST INTO GREAT APPLE BELT

between trees, and in late years it has been the custom to grow Canada peas, cow peas or some other leguminous crop in the orchard to restore the nitrogen to the soil.

One of the chief reasons why fruit raising in irrigated regions has proved so successful is the fact that the lack of rainfall makes the destruction of insect pests a matter of certainty. Spraying is one of the Western orchardist's regular tasks. On some of the big fruit ranches of the West it is no uncommon thing to see a dozen spraying wagons lined up in the orchard fighting insects that threaten to destroy the crop. Spraying where there is little rainfall is far more effective than in a region where a shower is apt to undo all the orchardist's hard work in a few hours. The spraying is generally done with self-bolled lime-sulphur and lead arsenate for the fungus diseases and insect pests that threaten the life of apple and peach.

Pruning is another matter that is never neglected on the up to date orchard. In pruning it is aimed to secure a low head and wide branches even about the trunk. Pruning season is a busy time in the great orchard districts, and an army of men are kept busy for many weeks trimming the trees in order to get them into perfect bearing form.

The story of some of the early West-

Wonderful Growth of Industry Due to Scientific Means  
Employed by Orchardists—Constant Care to Keep  
Trees in Good Condition and to Deliver Fruit  
to Consumer in Height of Perfection—The  
"Apple Queen of Colorado"

compahgre Valley. The land was not even taken up for settlement until John Ashenfelter, who operated a mule pack train to the mining camp of Ouray, in the San Juan Mountains, selected the mesa as a place to graze his worn out stock.

Out of curiosity Mr. Ashenfelter planted a few apple trees. The results astonished him, and the mule pasture speedily developed into one of the largest and finest orchards in the West.

The Government has spent millions of dollars turning the waters of the Gunnison River through a tunnel into the Uncompahgre Valley to water fruit lands adjoining the Ashenfelter orchard and the land which was thought to be worthless for anything but grazing has soared to phenomenal values. An army of men are employed in the Ashenfelter orchard spraying, pruning and irrigating. Hundreds of pickers and packers are employed in harvest time. Countless boxes of apples are shipped from the ranch, besides peaches, pears and apricots, and the land which was used as a mule pasture has become one of the show places of the Rocky Mountain fruit country.

The problem of getting harvest help in the fruit regions is a serious one. Frosts generally come early and there

penitentiary is located, the warden has even turned his "trusties" into neighboring orchards when a heavy frost impended in order to expedite the work of saving the fruit.

The last spring frosts that visit the high plateau region of the Western fruit country are the bane of the orchardist. In order to combat these frosts much attention has been paid to orchard heating in late years. Various makes of orchard heaters are used, some of them burning oil and others coal.

A call to the orchards in the spring is sent out by the ever vigilant Weather Bureau when frost impends. Business men close their stores and children flock from the schools to help. The entire valley is alight by nightfall and is a sight never to be forgotten.

It is the general opinion of fruit raisers in the West that orchard heating has passed the experimental stage and has proved its value past all doubt. The temperature in an orchard can be raised several degrees, according to the number of heaters used. It is no small task to keep an orchard full of heaters alight, and where frost has threatened for several successive nights the strain on fruit raisers is great. But those who have heated their orchards have had their reward in good crops, while neighbors

queens from the various apple raising communities attend the big apple show, which is generally held in the State metropolis, and there is lively balloting for the supreme favorite.

The present apple queen of Colorado is Miss Lorena Wade, from the Paonia fruit district on the western slope. She was winner in an exciting voting contest at the Denver apple show, with rivals from Canon City and other fruit raising districts.

Nursery inspection is playing a big part in raising the standard of fruit in the United States. There are forty-six States with nursery inspection, general or county officers inspecting all nursery stock once or twice a year. In 1881 there were only four States with this sort of inspection.

The discovery of the San Jose scale in 1893 led to a plan of having all nursery stock shipped under certificates. These certificates are recognized in all States that have stock inspection. In some States the nurseryman must file his certificate before selling. In others, all stock must be fumigated before being sold or shipped. It is recognized that this country has inefficient plant quarantine regulations, but the danger of importing diseased trees is minimized by the severe local stock inspection

engaged in an exhaustive investigation of the best methods of handling fruits from tree to market.

Prompt and efficient precooling is recognized as one of the best methods of securing a minimum of decay and deterioration. Precooling plants have been erected at great expense by shipping associations and by railroads. Through a vacuum process the natural heat of the freshly picked fruit is removed, bringing the fruit from core to surface to the exact temperature of the refrigerator car.

Most of the fruit raisers belong to local associations and must obey strict rules as to grading and packing. There is no more shipping of inferior fruit as first class and no more rough handling on the trees or in transit to the storage plants. Every detail of the apple's progress from the tree to the wholesaler is watched closely, and the motto of one of the biggest fruit associations in the West is: "You can eat our apples in the dark." Any box of apples that is not up to grade will be replaced by the association in the locality where it is sold, and the fruit raiser who shipped the inferior fruit is subject to a fine. These are some of the things that have intruded King Apple so securely on his throne in the West.

## Hobble Skirt Furnishes Newest Railroad Danger

FOR several years women passengers on street cars and railroad cars throughout the country have been objecting to the high steps, asserting not only that they make it difficult to get on or off cars but also that they are a source of danger, particularly in the case of young children and elderly women.

Now the railroad companies have started a back fire which may or may not result in a new complaint of the women. The street car companies have not as yet followed the example of the railroads.

A few days ago the Pennsylvania Railroad declared that many accidents to women while entering or leaving its cars were directly due to hobble skirts and high heels. The injuries sustained have ranged from slight cuts and sprains to broken bones.

A new order, which is posted on the trainmen's bulletin boards at all points on the main line of the Pennsylvania road, directs conductors and brakemen to make particular note of the style of skirt and the height of heel worn by any woman passenger who may slip on the steps of a car either while entering or leaving, while her probable age and the attending circumstances of the accident are to be recorded also. No insistence is made upon ascertaining the exact age of the passenger. These data are to be immediately forwarded to designated officials of the company, who are to place them on file for future reference if complaint is made to the company by the passenger injured. Already a number of such reports have been received by the company at its New York, West Philadelphia, Altoona and Wilkes-Barre offices.

"If women passengers on the Pennsylvania Railroad insist on wearing such mantraps, or rather womentrap, as hobble skirts and high heels, they cannot hold this company responsible for accidents which may happen to them," said an official of the company. "Aside from the question of whether the car steps are too high, which we deny is the case, women passengers who wear such contrivances are, we think, guilty of contributory negligence, and we believe the courts will so hold."

Even a tombstone will say good things of a fellow when he's down.

Better to have loved a short girl than never to have loved a tall.



Packing apples the "Western way."

ern orchards reads like romance. An excellent example is found in the celebrated Ashenfelter orchard of several hundred acres near Montrose, Col.

Twenty years ago the mesa on which this orchard stands was barren, save for sagebrush. Nobody had any idea that fruit could be raised in the Un-

must be no delay in getting the fruit in storage. It is by no means uncommon for schools to be dismissed and church congregations excused in Grand Junction, Palisade and other western slope fruit centres of Colorado in order that fruit may be gathered in time. In Canon City, where the Colorado State

who scoffed at the idea have scored total failures.

After a good harvest in any Western fruit raising community there is a time of rejoicing. Generally there is a local fruit fair and a fruit queen is chosen from among the pretty girls of the surrounding countryside. These fruit

which has grown up in recent years in nearly all fruit raising States.

The revolutionary changes in picking and handling fruit have all come from California, whose model fruit growers' exchange handles 14,000,000 boxes of citrus fruits with a minimum of loss. The United States Government is now



Miss Lorena Wade—Colorado's "Apple Queen."

THE great fruit belt of the world has been slipping to the West for several years. This is particularly true of the apple crop. To-day King Apple is securely entrenched west of the Mississippi River.

The change is due not alone to the wonderful growth of orchards in the last twenty years but also to the fact that Western orchardists have been quick to adopt the latest ideas in handling and marketing fruit. In fact, the mere raising of fruit is of minor importance in the eyes of the modern orchardist. The questions of picking, packing, cooling and marketing are the factors that count most. A majority of the failures in the fruit business are due to neglect of these points, and it will be found that the fruit kings of the West have succeeded as much from their shrewdness as business men as their ability as apple raisers.

The year 1912 was marked by a serious shortage in the apple crop of Europe. Climatic conditions were bad in this country, but so many young and vigorous orchards were just coming into bearing in the West that the crop was nearly normal. The total apple crop of the United States for the year is officially estimated at \$9,000,000 barrels, against \$6,665,000 in 1911. According to the census of 1910 there were

65,792,000 bearing apple trees in American orchards.

The fruit raisers of California have taught valuable lessons to orchardists all over the world. They have shown the value of intensive agriculture and of singleness of purpose in fruit raising.

Like the Californian, the orchardist of the Rocky Mountain States is a fruit raiser to the exclusion of all other products. He makes fruit raising a specialty, whereas the old time orchard, dear to memory, was only a side issue on the farm. If the farmer could spare time from his other crops he attended to picking and shipping, but generally something else interfered, and countless barrels of fine apples were left to rot on the ground.

The modern orchard affords a sharp contrast. Perhaps it is a small tract of five or ten acres, all in Jonathans, Winesaps or another of the fancy growths that have proved so popular in recent years. In the comparatively warm irrigated countries the trees are from thirty-three to thirty-five feet apart, as against forty feet in New York State and other fruit growing localities where apple trees attain their largest growth and live longest.

In the fruit growing localities of the Northwest the trees are placed even closer together, affording self-protection against the steady winds. Much attention is paid to the care of the soil

## Army of Students Earning Money to Pay the Coming Year's Expenses in College

IT is customary to call the summer months in which the college student is at liberty the vacation period.

It really isn't anything of the kind for many American students. It might better be called the labor period, for it is during these months that the student with a love of independence seeks employment whereby he may pay his college expenses for the following year. And in many cases his work is of the hardest kind.

They make a formidable army of workers, these students, and they are engaged in all kinds of industries. They

roll up their sleeves, abandon all academic pride and set to work at anything that will bring them a fair return.

In every part of the country they may be seen working as tutors, salesmen, canvassers, waiters, laborers, baggage-men, motormen, conductors, and with very few exceptions they make good at anything they undertake. In these efforts they are greatly assisted by the employment bureaus which are a feature of every large college. Nowadays a poor young man may commence his university education with "no gold in his coffer" and yet feel reasonably cer-

Thousands of Young Men Are Working During Their Vacations as Waiters, Street Car Conductors, Motormen and Tutors and Putting Aside Their Earnings for Use During Coming Term

tain that he will come through without much difficulty.

Perhaps one of the softest jobs is that of the Princeton man who offers to guess your weight within three pounds or weigh you free at Coney Island. He does a thriving business, which is greatly stimulated by a quick sense of humor and an abundance of tact.

Any man who can run a business of this

kind successfully deserves to wind up in the diplomatic service. This student's income is derived chiefly from obese ladies whose weight he wiffully and craftily underguesses. Under ordinary circumstances this would mean the loss of 5 cents, but the fact is that his failure is generally rewarded.

A woman comes along who must weigh at least 180 pounds. The diplomat guesses

her weight at 141, and when she takes her seat in the swinging chair he so contrives that the scales show only 148 pounds. If she is with an admirer the result is a voluntary fee of perhaps a quarter.

It is at the seashore and the summer resorts generally that the student worker is particularly in evidence. A favorite scheme is for a number of students who

are musicians to organize an orchestra and seek engagements in a summer hotel. This sort of employment is well paid and a college orchestra is always very popular. The result is a well spent summer and a tidy bit of money saved. Others who are less lucky serve as waiters, clerks, porters and bellboys.

At Brighton Beach there are a score of men from Yale and Cornell and other colleges, athletes most of them, who work as life savers. Many of them have fine records and they are generally to be seen surrounded by admiring young girls. The pay in this service is not great, but

the work has the merit of affording plenty of open air sport.

Perhaps the largest percentage of students take to selling books. These men earn their title of B. A. before they actually complete their course. In this case, however, the B. A. does not stand for bachelor of arts, but for book agent.

The earnings of college men vary. As a rule their income for the summer months amounts to about \$200, though many pass this mark. One, Columbia student hung up an enviable record not long ago when for fourteen weeks work he showed earnings aggregating \$386.62.



The less lucky serve as waiters.



The railway companies welcome the college student.



A Princeton man who guesses your weight at Coney Island.



Many athletes find employment with the life guards.